

High level of dioxin found at Sauget site

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SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Contamination from the most highly toxic form of dioxin has been found at the site of a regional wastewater treatment plant under construction in Sauget, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency reported Friday.

EPA Director Richard J. Carlson said the findings "are cause for serious concern and I want to assure everyone that a full investigation will be conducted."

EPA SPOKESMAN John Muraro said no immediate health hazard is posed by the dioxin,

which is in a heavily industrial area that has no residences.

Carlson said work on the project was halted a month ago as a safety precaution, and "security measures have been put into effect."

Officials from the state EPA, the federal Environmental Protection Agency, the Illinois Public Health Department and the village of Sauget met Friday about the problem, he said.

Concentrations as high as 100 parts per billion of a dioxin designated as 2,3,7,8 TCDD have been found in soil at one of the project's pump stations on Mobile Avenue, Muraro told The Globe-Democrat.

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